

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 are amended and claim 11 is added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate indication that claims 4-6 and 10 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 8 is amended to overcome the rejection and now fulfill the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Thirant (U.S. Patent No. 4,240,712). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Thirant fails to disclose or suggest an optical write apparatus that includes an image display screen, a dimmer layer, and a role switch section that switches between a role in displaying an image and a role in writing an image by switching the dimmer layer between light dispersion mode and light transmission mode, as recited in independent claim 1.

Thirant teaches a liquid crystal display device with storage and local erasure, utilizing a thermal optical effect to write an image under the foremost scattering points in a layer of a material exhibiting a smectic mesophase (Abstract). Moreover, Thirant teaches changing the display device from a transparent layer to a scattering layer for simultaneous optical writing of an image by changing the orientation of long molecules that are polarizable under the influence of an electric field (col. 2, lines 34-39; col. 3, lines 16-39). The display screen in Thirant is switched between transparent and scattering by varying the orientation of the long molecules, as discussed above, and thus does not teach that a dimmer layer is switched between light dispersion and light transmission. Thus, Thirant fails to disclose or suggest a

dimmer layer that is switched between light dispersion mode and light transmission mode, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Thirant fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Thirant. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

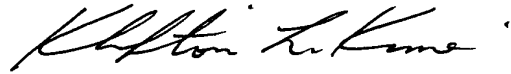
Claim 11 is also allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1. Support for the subject matter of claim 11 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 26, lines 15-17.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Also, consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Information Disclosure Statement

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